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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9152  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISTANBUL 000336

SIPDIS

LONDON FOR MURRAY; BERLIN FOR ROSENSTOCK-STILLER; BAKU FOR HAUGEN; ASHGABAT FOR TANGBORN; BAGHDAD FOR POPAL; DUBAI FOR IRPO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2025

TAGS: PGOV PREL PINS ECON ETRD IR TU

SUBJECT: (C) IRAN: A XXXXX CONTACT SHARES VIEWS FROM A RAFSANJANI BUSINESS ALLY ON KHAMENEI'S CANCER AND RAFSANJANI'S NEXT STEPS

Classified By: Consulate General Istanbul Deputy Principal Officer Win Dayton; Reason 1.5 (d).

- ¶1. (C) Summary: A XXXXXXXXXX businessman who represents the XXXXXXXXXX company XXXXXXXXXX shared with us a discussion he recently had wi  
¶2. (C) We met XXXXXXXXXX with XXXXXXXXXX. XXXXXXXXXX recently returned from meetings in Tehran with XXXXXXXXXX executives, including a  
¶3. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXX is a strong Mousavi supporter who expected to be a potential candidate for Minister of Industry  
¶4. (C) Khamenei has cancer: XXXXXXXXXX told XXXXXXXXXX that Rafsanjani remains vehemently opposed to Ahmadinejad but is biding his time be  
¶5. (C) "Invisible" general strike: XXXXXXXXXX said XXXXXXXXXX told him that a growing portion of the Iranian workforce was ISTANBUL 000003  
¶6. (C) XXXXXXXXXX  
¶7. (C) XXXXXXXXXX  
¶8. (C) XXXXXXXXXX

Comment

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¶9. (C) XXXXXXXXXX has proved to be a credible interlocutor in the past and XXXXXXXXXX favorably predisposed to the United States. This is ISTANBUL 00000336 003 OF 003

Leader in the event of Khamenei's near-term death is far from certain, and indeed is only one of many potential succession scenarios that could

¶10. (C) As a businessman, XXXXXXXXXX's primary motivation in pursuing deals with Iranian companies is, of course, the profit motive. But XX WIENER